VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

March 2, 2022

FOR THE PROPOSED

Superstructure Replacement of Maffa Way & Mystic Avenue over Orange Line and MBTA/BMRR.
Project No. 607670
Bridge Nos. B-16-067 (3GV) and B-16-068=S-17-027 (3GW)
Major Projects

IN THE CITIES OF BOSTON AND SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 607670

A Live Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Superstructure Replacement of Maffa Way & Mystic Avenue over Orange Line and MBTA/BMRR project in Boston and Somerville, MA.

WHEN: **Time (6:00PM), Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Superstructure Replacement of Maffa Way & Mystic Avenue over Orange Line and MBTA/BMRR. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of Boston=Somerville- Superstructure Replacement of, B-16-067 (3GV), Maffa Way & B-16-068=S-17-027 (3GW), Mystic Avenue over Orange Line and MBTA/BMRR. Maffa Way will consist of a 12' sidewalk on the southside of the bridge with a 10'wide 2 way Bicycle lane anda raised concrete median. Mystic Ave. will consist of a 12' sidewalk on the northside of the bridge that will beshared by pedestrians and bicyclists, separated by a 1.5' wide visual buffer.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or via US Mailto Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Major Projects,** Project File No. **607670**. Statementsand exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be published on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassDOT will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

We recognize that road and bridge construction can create inconveniences for the public. MassDOT places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassDOT encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer

RIGHT OF WAY CONCERNS

The State is responsible for securing the Right of Way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the State for highway purposes in the interest of all people ofthe Commonwealth, your rights are fully protected under the law. Briefly, here are some of theanswers to questions you might ask.

1. **WHO CONTACTS ME?**

   Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division. They will explain the impacts and your rights as protected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79.

2. **WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

   Every offer is made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property,or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the acquisition. MassDOT appraisers, independent appraisers, MassDOT "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Appraisal Review Board may all contribute in arriving at an award of damages. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year for fee takings, and interest from the date the property is acquired to the payment date, on all impacts.

3. **MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?**

   No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time being") that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

4. **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

   The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house. Otherwise, the structure will be slated for demolition.

5. **WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

   In addition to the market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.

MASS GIS

LOCUS MAP

SCALE:1"=600'

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massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

PARE
CORPORATION

BRIDGE NO. B-16-068=S-17-028 (3GW)
& BRIDGE NO. B-16-067 (3GV)
MYSTIC AVE & MAFFA WAY OVER MBTA
BOSTON, MA

PROJECT LOCATION AND LIMITS

The proposed project is to replace the superstructures and rehabilitate the substructures of the Maffa Way and Mystic Avenue bridges over MBTA and Pan Am freight rail lines in Boston and Somerville. Approach roadway work on Maffa Way will extend from Mt. Vernon Street/Lombardi Street to the Sullivan Square Station entrance roadway, and on Mystic Avenue from Lombardi Street/Assembly Square Drive to Dorrance Street.

PROJECT PURPOSE

This project is intended to improve public safety by addressing substandard bridge conditions and improving pedestrian and bicycle accommodations while maintaining existing public transportation and vehicle traffic flow.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The existing bridges are classified as Structurally Deficient. Currently no accommodations for bicycles across both bridges, and there is inadequate pedestrian accommodations for new and proposed development in Sullivan Square and Assembly Square.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Both bridge superstructures will be replaced with new superstructures. The Maffa Way Bridge will include a 10-foot two-way bike lane separated from traffic with a raised median. A sidewalk of varying width up to 11'-10" wide will be provided on the south side of the bridge. The Mystic Avenue bridge will include a 12-foot wide shared use path on the north side of the roadway to accommodate both pedestrians and bicycles.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The bridges will be constructed in phased to maintain vehicle traffic and sidewalks throughout construction.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Takings as well as temporary and permanent easements will be required for the construction of this project.

PROJECT COST

The estimated cost of construction for this project is estimated to be $48 million dollars. This project is funded under the Federal Aid Program whereby 80% of the construction cost will befunded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and 20% of the construction cost willbe funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PROJECT STATUS

The design plans displayed at this live Virtual Design Public Hearing are at the 25% design stage. Comments made at this hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible. The project is expected to be advertised for final design and construction by a Design-Build Entity in July 2022, with construction expected to start in 2023.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Boston and Somerville, MA
Superstructure Replacement of Maffa Way & Mystic Avenue
over Orange Line and MBTA/BMRR.
Project File No. 607670

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Major Projects

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

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Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing
Superstructure Replacement of Maffa Way & Mystic Avenue over Orange Line and MBTA/BMRR.
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